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METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR SCHEDULING DISTRIBUTION
ROUTES AND TIMESLOTS

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Computer-based methods and systems for dynamically scheduling the distribution of products and services among a system of routes and timeslots are provided. Exemplary embodiments provide a Route and Timeslot Scheduler (the "RTS"), which controls the creation, quantity, and allocation of schedulable stops (or events) for each timeslot of each route based upon a calendar and template system. Each route typically represents a geographic area to which products can be delivered. Each timeslot typically represents a window of time, during which delivery stops (or events) can be scheduled. Scheduled stops / events are created based upon defaults which are specified in the template system. A calendar system is provided to specify which routes and timeslots, which would otherwise be available based upon the template system, are actually applicable to be scheduled on a given calendar day. The RTS creates scheduled stops for a designated potential order period, which includes dates into the future. These scheduled stops can then be allocated to deliveries or events. An alert mechanism is provided to warn when scheduled stops have been allocated past a designated point. The schedules, templates, and calendars can be modified dynamically while the system is running or by changing the templates or calendars and then causing the system to be updated to correspond to the modifications.